



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/613,235	07/10/2000	JAMES F. ARNOLD	SRIIP041	9628

7590                    07/09/2004

Thomason Moser & Patterson LLP  
595 Shrewsbury Avenue Suite 100  
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

EXAMINER

CHAWAN, VIJAY B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2004

1d

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/613,235	ARNOLD ET AL.
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
Vijay B. Chawan	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10, 11</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Foulger et al.,, (6,578,022).

As per claim 1, Foulger et al., teaches a method for allowing concept based information searching comprising the steps of:

- (a) collecting textual information using a network (Col.17, lines 16-23);
- (b) parsing the textual information for creating topic specific information packets (Col.16, lines 9-26);
- (c) storing the information packets in an information cache (Col.3, lines 53-58);
- (d) receiving a query from a user (Col.16, lines 9-12);
- (e) parsing the user query and comparing the parsed user query with the information packets in the information cache to locate matching information packets (Col.22, line 63 – Col.23, line 3); and,

(f) displaying the matching information packets to a user (Col.3, lines 46-52).

As per claim 2, Foulger et al., teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the query into an internal query form (Col.16, lines 9-26).

As per claim 3, Foulger et al., teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user inputs the query in natural language (Col.22, lines 49-54).

As per claim 4, Foulger et al., teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of executing a network search, performing a search of information sources responsive to the user query, and outputting information matching the user query to the user if the user query is not understood (Col.17, lines 33-48).

As per claim 5, Foulger et al., teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the formatted information includes a hyperlink to the original source of the textual information (Col.6, lines 43-62).

Claims 6-10 are directed to a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium to implement the steps of method claims 1-5, and are similar in scope and content, and are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 11-15, are apparatus claims implementing the method of claims 1-5, and are similar in scope and content, and are rejected under similar rationale.

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Marchisio (6,510,406) teaches an inference engine for high performance web search.

Snyder et al., (6,038,561) teach management and analysis of document information text.

Arnold et al., (6,745,161) teaches system and method for incorporating concept based retrieval within Boolean search engines.

Preston (6,446,081) teaches data input and retrieval apparatus.

Appelt et al., (6,601,0260 teach information retrieval by natural language querying.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay B. Chawan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Thursday 7-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (703) 305-9645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2654

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Vijay B. Chawan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2654

Vbc  
6/25/04

**VIJAY CHAWAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**